



Robert Sanders was appointed to the Kansas Parole Board September 23, 2004. He was employed by the Kansas Department of Corrections for 27 years. He began his career with the Department of Corrections in July 1977 as a Corrections Officer at Hutchinson Correctional Facility (HCF). He also held a variety positions with the department including, Corrections Counselor I, Corrections Counselor II, Community Program Consultant, and State Director of Community Corrections. In May 2000, he was appointed to the position of Deputy Secretary for Community and Field Services. Robert graduated from Bethany College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in May 1977. He completed the requirements for the Certified Public Manager Program from the University of Kansas in December 1997. Additionally he completed the Correctional Leadership Program sponsored by the National Institute of Corrections in 1997. He is Past-President of the Kansas Correctional Association, member of the American Correctional Association, Regional Representative for the American Probation and Parole Association, chairman of the Diversity Committee for the American Probation and Parole Association and member of the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice.



Patricia Biggs, member, was appointed to the Kansas Parole Board in September, 2006. Prior to her position with the Parole Board, Ms. Biggs was Executive Director for the Kansas Sentencing Commission for three years and was with the Kansas Department of Corrections for over seven years where she served as the Director of Research and

Planning and as Special Assistant to the Secretary of Corrections. Prior to that, Biggs was an economist in Washington, D.C., a financial analyst in Pennsylvania, an instructor at the University of Connecticut, and an adjunct professor at Washburn University and Friends University. She has consulted for the National Institute of Corrections and for Harvard Business School. Ms. Biggs holds a Bachelor of Science from West Chester University of Pennsylvania, a Master of Arts from George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, and is A.D.B. (all but dissertation) in the Ph.D. program at The University of Connecticut. She has held memberships in the National Association of Sentencing Commissions, the American Probation and Parole Association, Association of Paroling Authorities, International, and the Justice Research and Statistics Association.



Tom Sawyer was appointed to the Kansas Parole Board in September 2009. Prior to his position with the Parole Board, Mr. Sawyer served in the Kansas House of Representatives where he represented the 95th House District which includes portions of central Wichita. Mr. Sawyer demonstrated strong leadership skills during his tenure in the House of Representatives. In 1990 he was elected the House Minority Whip and Chairman of the House Ethics and Elections Committee. In 1991-1992 he was elected to the position of House Majority Leader, the only Wichitan selected to serve in that position since 1969. From 1993 to 1998 he served as the House Minority Party Leader. In 2005 he was elected to serve as the Chairman of the Sedgwick County Legislative Delegation. Mr. Sawyer has also served as the Chair of the Kansas Democratic Party and ran for Governor in 1994. As a lifelong resident of Wichita, Mr. Sawyer has been highly active in the local community. He walked 20 miles in the CROP walk, helped build 20 houses in a week as part of Habitat for Humanity's blitz in Wichita during 1995. He has also served on the legislative committee for the American Diabetes Association, been involved in youth mentoring at his local church and served on the Visioneering Wichita Committee Task Force. Mr. Sawyer attended Wichita State University where he obtained a Bachelor of Administration in Accounting.

Kansas Parole Board

Robert Sanders, Chairperson

Patricia Biggs, Member

Tom Sawyer, Member

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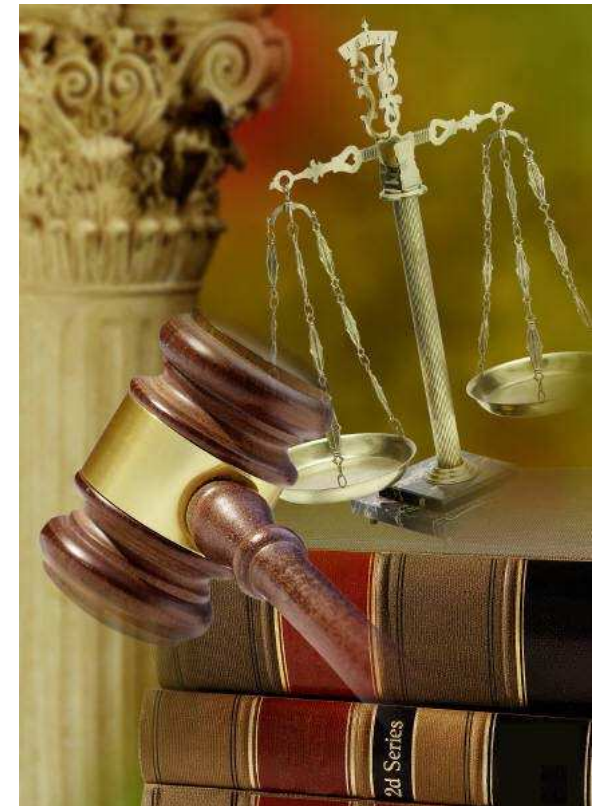
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Kansas Parole Board

Public Comment Sessions



The Kansas Parole Board contributes to protecting the safety of the citizens of the state of Kansas by the exercise of sound, rational decision making.



The Public Comment Session

The Kansas Parole Board conducts monthly Public Comment Sessions in the cities of Wichita, Topeka and Kansas City. Sessions also are held every other month in Hays and Garden City. These sessions provide an opportunity to allow victims, family, public officials, community members, and other interested persons to express their support, opposition, concern, or comments regarding the potential parole of offenders who are scheduled for parole hearings the following month.

In addition to the Board members, a representative from the KDOC Office of [Victim Services](#) will be in attendance at each session to provide instructions and assistance. Victims are encouraged to contact the Office of Victim Services at 1-888-317-8204 for additional information about their services.

Parole Board Mission

Consistent with the principles of evidence based practices, parole privilege shall be extended to those offenders who demonstrate suitability by having served incarceration time set forth by the courts and who have demonstrated a reduction in risk to re-offend such that re-victimization is minimized and rehabilitation and successful re-entry are maximized; similarly, parole privileges shall be rescinded in cases where an offender demonstrates increasing risk in the community.

Parole Eligibility

Offenses Prior to July 1, 1993:

Inmates under the indeterminate sentencing structure for offenses prior to July 1, 1993 become parole eligible after serving the minimum sentence, less good time credits. Good time credits are calculated according to statute. Currently, good time is earnable at a rate of 1 day for every day served for sentences with a minimum of 2 years. For these offenders, then, an individual becomes eligible at half of his/her minimum sentence if all good time is earned. For sentences with a 1-year minimum, parole eligibility is reached after serving 9 months.

Offenses on and after July 1, 1993:

Pure Determinate Sentences – for this offender group, the Court imposes sentences for a fixed duration based on the legislatively prescribed severity of offense and the criminal history of the offender. Offenders in this group are released from prison when they have served their sentence, less good-time credits earned (generally 15% of sentence), without Parole Board intervention.

"Off Grid" Offenders – for this offender group, a fixed minimum sentence term was imposed by the Court according to statute. An example of this type of sentence is a "Hard 10" year sentence or a "Hard 40" year sentence. For these sentences, an offender must serve no less than the number of years prescribed with no availability of good time credit earnings. Upon serving the sentence term, offenders sentenced under this structure must first see the Parole Board for determination of Parole Suitability.

Parole Suitability

Kansas Law stipulates that the Board may release on parole those inmates who satisfactorily have completed the Program Agreement, required by the K.S.A. 75-5210a, who the Board believes are able and willing to fulfill the obligations of a law-abiding citizen, and when the Board is of the opinion that there is a reasonable probability that the inmate can be released without detriment to the community or to the inmate. (K.S.A. 22-3717 (e)).

In making its decision, the Board considers the following seven areas per K.S.A. 22-3717 (h),

- (1) The Crime
- (2) Prior Criminal History
- (3) Program Participation
- (4) Disciplinary Record
- (5) Reports of physical/mental examinations
- (6) Comments Received from the Victims, the Public and Criminal Justice Officials
- (7) Prison Capacity
- (8) Input from staff where offender is housed
- (9) Proportionality to sentence guidelines
- (10) Risk factors revealed by any risk assessments

In addition to these considerations, the Board often considers additional factors such as the parole plan of an offender and takes into account the welfare of the community and public safety in determining the optimum period of time for parole release of an individual inmate. The parole decision is representative of the criminal justice system and governmental guidelines and is an attempt to reflect the general attitude and opinions of law enforcement and the community at large. Before granting parole, the Board determines whether or not an offender has demonstrated appropriate behavior which ensures a reasonable opportunity to succeed socially and economically. The Board takes into consideration the individuality of offenders on a case-by-case basis.